

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid encoding Regulator of Cullins 1 (ROC1), said nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**;
- (b) a nucleic acid which encodes a protein that forms a complex with a cullin protein and/or has ubiquitin ligase activity, wherein said nucleic acid hybridizes to the complete complement of a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1** under stringent conditions defined by a wash of 50% Formamide, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS and 1X SSPE at 42°C;
- (c) a nucleic acid which encodes a protein that forms a complex with a cullin protein and/or has ubiquitin ligase activity, wherein said nucleic acid has at least 95% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**; and
- (d) a nucleic acid that differs from the nucleic acid of (a) to (c) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a ROC1 protein consisting of the amino acid sequence ~~given herein as of~~ **SEQ ID NO:2**.

4. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to ~~Claim~~claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid consists of the nucleotide sequence ~~given herein as of~~ **SEQ ID NO:1**.

5. (Currently amended) An expression vector comprising ~~an~~the isolated polynucleotide ~~according to Claim~~of claim 1.

6. (Currently amended) A cell comprising ~~an~~the expression vector ~~according to Claim of~~
claim 5.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The cell ~~comprising an expression vector according to~~
Claim of claim 6, wherein said cell is and capable of expressing said nucleic acid encoding ROC1.

8-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) An antisense oligonucleotide that is 12 to 50 nucleotides in length and is completely complementary to a portion of the nucleic acid ~~encoding ROC1 of Claim of~~
claim 1.

14. (Currently amended) The antisense oligonucleotide of ~~Claim~~claim 13, wherein said oligonucleotide is DNA.

15. (Currently amended) An expression vector capable of transcribing ~~an~~the antisense oligonucleotide ~~according to Claim of claim~~ 13.

16. (Currently amended) A method for producing a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of **SEQ ID NO:2**, comprising:

(a) culturing a host cell comprising an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**; and
- (ii) a nucleic acid that differs from the nucleic acid of (i) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code; and

(b) recovering the protein from the host cell culture.

17-4 (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) A method for producing a peptide or protein, ~~the method~~ comprising:

(a) culturing a host cell comprising an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide consisting of a segment of at least 60 consecutive nucleotides of a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**; and
- (ii) a nucleic acid that differs from the nucleic acid of (i) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code; and

(b) recovering the peptide from the host cell culture.